

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 INR-10 PRS-01 RSC-01 /047 R

66624 AND 66623

DRAFTED BY:EA:P:AHROSEN

APPROVED BY:EA:P:AHROSEN

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R 220012Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USSAGE

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 106677

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UX, US

SUBJECT: MAY 21 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. NEW EFFORT TO BOOST US MIL AID TO SVN BY 274 MILLION DOLLARS THREATENS HOUSE FLOOR FIGHT THIS WEEK. HASC CHAIRMAN HEBERT PUT INCREASE IN FY 75 BILL AFTER HOUSE EARLIER REJECTED MORE MIL AID FOR SVN. ADDITIONAL 274 MILLION WOULD RAISE US MIL AID TO 1.4 BILLION LEVEL THAT DOD UNCLASSIFIED

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SAYS SVN NEEDS TO DEFEND SELF (AP, S-N 5/20). ADMIN. PROPOSAL FOR 1.6 BILLION IN MIL AID FOR SVN LIKELY TO BE "FIRST CASUALTY" IN FLOOR FIGHT ON DOD BUDGET. REP. LEGGETT WILL ASK HOUSE TO LIMIT VN AID TO THE 900 MILLION APPROVED BY SASC (UPI, BALTO N-A 5/20). RUSSELL (WP)

EXPECTS HEAVY ATTACK ON DOD BUDGET WITH MAJOR FLOOR FIGHT ON MIL AID TO SVN; NOTES LEGGETT WOULD REDUCE IT TO 900 MILLION FROM THE 1.4 BILLION AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE FOR FY 75, POINTS OUT THAT ORIGINAL ADMIN. REQUEST WAS FOR 1.6 BILLION.

2. WERMIEL (GLOBE 5/19) DISCUSSES WEATHER MODIFICATION IN VN WAR AS DISCLOSED BY SEN. PELL. RAINMAKING PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED TO HAMPER ENEMY MOVEMENTS, AND FLIGHTS WERE RECORDED AS WEATHER RECON. PLAN REPORTEDLY APPROVED BY WH, BUT NO ONE SURE WHO IN WH GAVE OK; LAIRD BEFORE SFRC IN 1972 DENIED "THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY" BEING CONDUCTED OVER NVN, NOW EXPRESSES REGRET TO COMMITTEE THAT INFO WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO HIM AT TIME. PELL SEES DECISION ON RAINMAKING IN SEA AS MADE WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION OF LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS, CALLS FOR WELL-CONSIDERED NATIONAL POLICY ON SUBJECT.

3. INDONESIAN MFA RESPONDS TO REPORT THAT HANOI WANTS IT TO STAY ON ICCS, ANNOUNCES IT WILL CONTINUE ON COMMISSION SO LONG AS ITS PARTICIPATION IS REQUESTED BY C-F SIGNATORIES (AFP, WP).

4. GVN MOVES TO RECAPTURE THREE OVERRUN POSITIONS NEAR BEN CAT, 25 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON WHERE BATTLE HAS RAGED FOR FIVE DAYS (CHITRIB). SAIGON COMMAND CONFIRMS THAT BEN CAT OPERATION UNDERWAY, BUT GIVES NO DETAILS; MIL SOURCES REPORT THAT PUSH TO RECAPTURE POSTS STARTED AFTER HEAVY INFANTRY, TANK AND ARTILLERY REINFORCEMENTS SENT IN BY GVN (REUTERS, NYT). SVN TROOPS LAUNCH THREE-PRONGED OFFENSIVE NEAR BEN CAT (NYTPOST 5/20). MCCOMBS (WP) FROM SAIGON QUOTES GVN SPOKESMAN THAT MASSIVE COUNTERATTACK LAUNCHED AGAINST STIFF COMMUNIST RESISTANCE NEAR BEN CAT, SEES ARVN COMMANDERS CONSIDERING MOVES UNCLASSIFIED

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CAREFULLY FOR FEAR OF ENEMY ATTACKS IN OTHER AREAS AROUND CAPITAL. SAYS SAIGON ANALYSTS BELIEVE ACTION DOES NOT THREATEN CITY AND IS NOT BEGINNING OF COUNTRYWIDE GENERAL OFFENSIVE, BUT IS PROBABLY SHOW OF POWER BY COMMUNISTS WHO HOPE TO GAIN POLITICAL LEVERAGE. AP SAYS IT IS BELIEVED COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR MIL POSITION AND WEAKEN GVN IN ADVANCE OF "POSSIBLE GENERAL OFFENSIVE" LATER (NYPOST 5/20).

5. US OFFICIALS DO NOT BELIEVE DESTRUCTION OF 250,000 GALLON CALTEX STORAGE TANK BY COMMUNIST SAPPERS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT CIVILIAN OR MIL GASOLINE SUPPLIES (MCCOMBS). SAIGON COMMAND REPORTS

FOURTH DAY OF WIDESPREAD NAV AND VC ATTACKS ACROSS  
COUNTRY (AP, NYTPOST 5/20).

6. MCCOMBS (SP) SAYS THAT DESPITE IDEOLOGICAL  
ASSERTION OF EQUALITY OF THE SEXES, HE SAW FEW  
WOMEN OFFICIALS ON HIS VISIT TO VC AREA AND EVEN  
FEWER AT HIGHER LEVELS, THOUGH THEY WORK WITH MEN IN FIELDS  
AND SERVE AS SOLDIERS. HEARD LECTURE BY REPRESENTATIVE  
OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION THAT DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY  
WITH ALLEGED GVN ATROCITIES; COMMENTS THAT RAPE  
AND FEAR OF RAPE ARE PRINCIPAL DISCUSSION SUBJECTS  
AMONG VC WOMEN. RAPE STORIES ABOUND, SOMETIMES  
FEATURING US TROOPS BUT MORE OFTEN ARVN. ONE  
WOMAN CADRE SAYS FEAR OF RAPE IS ONE REASON WHY  
WOMEN WANT TO JOIN GUERRILLAS. MCCOMBS ALSO  
INTERVIEWED ARVN WIDOW WHO SAID SHE WAS REFUGEE  
AND RECEIVED LITTLE HELP FROM GVN, SO RETURNED  
TO HOME IN VC AREA WHERE SHE IS WELL-TREATED AND  
PRG BUILT HOUSE FOR HER.

7. JOHNS HOPKINS U. TRUSTEES DENY GRADUATING  
SENIORS' REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DEGREE TO HUYNH  
TAN MAM, IMPRISONED PRESIDENT OF SVN NATIONAL STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION. JHU PRESIDENT SAYS LATENESS OF REQUEST  
AND LACK OF BIODATA WERE REASONS FOR REFUSAL.  
STUDENTS PLAN TO MAKE MAM HONORARY MEMBER OF CLASS.  
SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT SAYS STUDENTS WILL DISCUSS  
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POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST DURING GRADUATION CEREMONIES  
ON FRIDAY (SUN; REUTER BALTIMORE).

CHINA

8. CSM'S WOHL REPORTS NEW SIGNS OF SHARPENING SINO-  
SOVIET TENSIONS. CITES IZVESTIA MAY 15 ARTICLE'S  
HINTS THAT MOSCOW HAS SECRET SUPPORT AMONG IMPORTANT  
SECTIONS OF PRC OFFICIALDOM AND PUBLIC OPINION.  
ARTICLE SUGGESTS MAO IS PORTRAYING IMPROVEMENT  
IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS AS IMPOSSIBLE IN ORDER TO  
GUARD AGAINST OPPOSITION THAT FAVORS A WARMING  
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WOHL ALSO NOTES THAT  
MOSCOW'S LITERARY GAZETTE HAS ABANDONED EARLIER  
OFFICIAL LINE THAT SINO-SOVIET BORDER HAS BEEN QUIET,  
AND IS NOW SAYING "SPECTACULAR OR SECRET VIOLATIONS  
OF THE BORDER BY THE CHINESE (HAVE TAKEN PLACE) TO  
WHICH WE HAVE NOT GIVEN LARGE PUBLICITY."

9. HOSTILE CROWD SURROUNDED SEVEN FRENCH DIPLOMATS  
SUNDAY AND LATER POLICE DETAINED DIPLOMATS AFTER  
ONE WENT STROLLING NEAR MING DYNASTY TOMBS (LAT 5/20).  
AFP REPORTS FRENCH DIPLOMATIC SOURCE IN PEKING

SAYING MONDAY THAT GOJ PLANNED TO CALL PRC'S ATTENTION TO SUCH "DISAGREEABLE" INCIDENTS (SP).

10. DAVID ROCKEFELLER SUFFERS FRACTURED HIP AFTER FALL IN HIS TAIPEI HOTEL ROOM (CHITRIB; PHINQ; WP; NYT; NYPOST 5/20).

JAPAN

11. IN TOKYO-DATELINED STORY, SUN REPORTS OHIRA SCHEDULED TO MEET NIXON TODAY IN WHAT SOURCES ON BOTH SIDES SAY IS LITTLE MORE THAN "PROTOCOL VISIT," WITH NO SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED, ACCORDING TO OHIRA'S SPOKESMAN. JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR US PARTICIPATION IN SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND JAPAN-PRC CIVIL PACT SEEM LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED. SOME US OBSERVERS MAINTAIN PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF MEETING IS TO ENHANCE OHIRA'S DECLINING UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESTIGE AT HOME, AND ESPECIALLY WITHIN LDP. WP REPORTS HAK DELAY IN ME AFFECTS OHIRA SCHEDULE, WITH RUSH TO FILL IN FOR HIM.

12. US SENATE PASSES AND SENDS TO WH BILL TO CARRY OUT TREATY WITH JAPAN FOR PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS AND ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMON TO BOTH COUNTRIES (AP, CHITRIB).

13. ABOUT 200 PERSONS WHO SURVIVED HIROSHIMA A-BOMB ATTACK STAGE SITDOWN PROTEST PROTESTING INDIA'S FIRST NUCLEAR EXPLOSION SATURDAY IN TOKYO (WP).

14. NIHON AIR CONDITIONER FIRM ASKS RECEIVERSHIP IN JAPAN'S BIGGEST CORPORATE COLLAPSE SINCE WWII (WSJ, JOC).

15. GOJ OFFICIAL TELLS JOC THAT JAPAN HOPES TO CONCLUDE 12-MONTH PACT WITH US AND EEC WHEN ITS DELEGATES MEET THOSE FROM US AND EEC AT END OF MAY IN PARIS.

MALAYSIA

16. RAZAK TO MAKE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA MAY 28, FOLLOWING CHOU EN-LAI INVITATION TO FORMALIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (WP).

17. FOURTH WORLD TIN CONFERENCE SLATED FOR KL OCT. 30 - NOV. 5 (JOC).

AUSTRALIA

18. LATEST VOTING FIGURES SHOW ALP IS LIKELY TO HAVE MAJORITY OF BETWEEN 3-5 SEATS IN NEW HOUSE (WP, CHITRIB); FINAL VOTE RESULTS NOT EXPECTED FOR UP TO WEEK (AP NYPOST, BALTO N-A 5/20).

19. SPOKESMAN FOR FM WILLESSEE, CITING INDIA'S ATOMIC BLAST, SAYS GOA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NUCLEAR TESTS REMAINS ONE OF OPPOSING THEM WHEREVER  
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THEY OCCUR (CSM).

KOREA

20. TWO JAPANESE AND 65 KOREANS CHARGED WITH ANTI-GOVT. ACTIVITIES IN SEOUL AND WILL BE TRIED BY COURTMARTIAL, ACCORDING ROKG SOURCES (WP).

GENERAL

21. WM. ROGERS, BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE, ON TRIP THROUGH ASIA TO COLLECT VIEWS ON BRITAIN'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN AREA, SAYS LABOR GOVT. EXPECTS EVEN BIGGER DEFENSE CUTS THAN THOSE MADE IN 1968 THAT SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BRITISH GROUND COMMITMENTS EAST OF SUEZ (AP, WP).

22. CSM NOTES NEW MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR LUCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR YOUNG AMERICANS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN NY UNDER WHICH 15 MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL IS IN FIELD UNRELATED TO ASIA WILL SPEND YEAR THERE.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CHINA

23. IN PEKING, REUTER'S PEARCE SEES CHOU EN-LAI'S ILLNESS FOCUSING ATTENTION ON ADVANCED AGE OF PRC LEADERSHIP AND QUESTION OF WHO IS LIKELY TO TAKE REINS OF POWER WHEN PRESENT LEADERS DEPART. MOST OBSERVERS THERE AGREE THAT "OBVIOUS SUCCESSORS" TO CHOU AS PREMIER ARE LI HSIEN-NIEN AND TENG HSIAO-PING. AS POLITBURO MEMBER, LI HAS "RIGHT PARTY CREDENTIALS" FOR CHOU'S JOB, "WITHOUT ANY RADICAL ASSOCIATIONS WHICH COULD UPSET HIS ACCEPTABILITY" TO BUREAUCRACY. TENG HAS MADE "REMARKABLE RETURN" TO UPPER ECHELONS OF POWER AFTER BEING DISGRACED FOR HIS ASSOCIATION WITH LIU SHAO-CHI. ALTHOUGH SMOOTH RUNNING OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY "IS THUS ASSURED," FOR FEW YEARS AT LEAST, WHILE CHOU PRESUMABLY WITHDRAWS

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TO SUPERVISE AND PLAN OVERALL STRATEGY, POSITION WITHIN CCP IS LESS CLEAR. SUGGESTS THAT IF CHOU OUTLIVES MAO, "COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WILL BE FORMED," RUN BY FIVE PARTY VICE-CHAIRMEN; BUT IF CHOU LEAVES STAGE FIRST, MAY BE NECESSARY TO CHOOSE "A FIRST AMONG EQUALS" FROM REMAINING PARTY LEADERS TO ENSURE PARTY SOLIDARITY.

ONE CANDIDATE WOULD BE WANT HUNG-WEN, THOUGH OBSERVERS FEEL HIS APPOINTMENT COULD BE RESENTED BY BOTH PARTY VETERANS AND MILITARY BECAUSE OF HIS YOUTH AND REDICAL BACKGROUND. LI TEH-SHENG APPEARS TO HAVE SURVIVED ACCUSATIONS FROM CERTAIN PROVINCES THAT HE WAS "SWORN FOLLOWER" OF LIN PIAO; BUT LI "IS PROBABLY TOO POWERFUL A MILITARY FIGURE TO BE ACCEPTABLE FOR SO IMPORTANT A PARTY POST." ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, WHOSE APPOINTMENT AS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LAST AUGUST WAS SEEN AS SIGN HE HAD TO SOME EXTENT MOVED AWAY FROM HIS EARLIER EXTREMIST STANCE.

ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ANY ASSESSMENT OF PRC LEADERSHIP IS ADVANCED AGE OF MANY POLITBURO MEMBERS. BUT CHINESE ARE AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM, AND WANG WAS BROUGHT INTO TOP LEADERSHIP AS SYMBOL OF YOUNGER GENERATION ON WHOM MAO IS PINNING HOPES FOR COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

24. KNIGHT SERVICE'S DON KIRK (GLOBE MAY 19) IN HONG KONG SEES TENG HSIAO-PING'S RISE AS PORTENDING STILL GREATER TENSION BETWEEN "MODERATES" AND "RADICALS," WITH CHIANG CHING BEING TENG'S MOST LIKELY PROTAGONIST. SEES AS LIKELY SIGN OF CHIANG'S HOSTILITY FOR TENG, WHO ESCAPED FORMAL DENUNCIATION IN OFFICIAL PEKING PRESS DURING GPCR BUT WAS UNREMITTINGLY DENOUNCED BY RED GUARDS, ABSENCE OF HER LISTING AMONG GUESTS AT RECENT STATE BANQUETS ATTENDED BY TENG SUBBING FOR CHOU.

CHINA WATCHERS DOUBT IF FORMAL SELECTION OF PREMIER TO SUCCEED CHOU WILL SOLVE BASIC PROBLEM OF CONTENTION. THEY POINT OUT THAT TENG, LIKE CHOU, IS IN HIS 70S - AND FACES STRONG POTENTIAL OPPOSITION FROM RELATIVELY UNCLASSIFIED

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"YOUNG" MEN IN THEIR 50S AND 60S. NUMBER OF THESE, ALONG WITH CHIANG CHING, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SHANGHAI CLIQUE WHICH INCREASED ITS INFLUENCE DURING 10TH PARTY CONGRESS. IN PART, BECAUSE CHIANG CHING'S PRESTIGE WOULD NOT SURVIVE MAO'S DEATH, SHE HAS ENCOURAGED

HER RADICAL ALLIES TO OPPOSE MODERATES WHILE THEY STILL HAVE CHANCE; THIS MIGHT BE CAUSE OF PRESENT DOMESTIC UNREST. CITES CHINA WATCHERS THAT "SHE COULD HAVE LAUNCHED THE CURRENT RECTIFICATION CAMPAIGN. SHE SAW MAO DECLINING PHYSICALLY AND DECIDED SHE HAD TO MOVE".

25. SUN'S ED WU IN HONG KONG DOES BIO SKETCH ON TEN HSIAO-PING AND SUMMARIZES STEPS IN HIS RESURRECTION AS AGE SLOWS CHOU DOWN. TENG IS NOW BACK TO WHERE HE WAS BEFORE GPCR, AND ONE STEP CLOSER TO PREMIERSHIP. RECALLS TENG TAKING OVER AS HOST TO SENGHOR, ATTENDING PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS AND OFFICIAL TALKS IN CHOU'S NAME DURING BHUTTO AND MAKARIOS VISITS. OBSERVERS THAT CHOU'S PART WAS LIMITED TO ONE ROUND OF OFFICIAL TALKS TO SET DIRECTION FOR TENG TO FOLLOW UP, TAKING PART IN MAO'S MEETING WITH VISITORS AND TOKEN WELCOME AT STATE GUEST HOUSE WHEN VISITORS ARRIVED. COMMENTS THAT CHOU'S POLITICAL IMAGE HAS NOT BEEN MARRED BY HIS HEALTH.

26. KRAFT (SUN) DIMISSES FEARS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IMPEACHMENT PORTENDS DISASTER. SAYS MOST IMPORTANT RECENT EVENTS SHOW THAT PEACE AND DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY DO NOT DEPEND ON PRES. NIXON. IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA, THE GREATEST POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKER IS USSR, BUT CHIEF FOCUS OF SOVIET ANIMOSITY REMAINS CHINA. IF ONLY TO ISOLATE CHINA, RUSSIANS ARE EAGER TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH US AND WE ON ARMS CONTROL AND TRADE. PERHAPS THE MAIN REASON HAK APPARENTLY HAS BEEN ABLE TO NEGOTIATE DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL IS THAT MOSCOW HAS NOT STOOD IN THE WAY.

27. ZORZA SAYS MOSCOW'S THREAT OF "INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES" IF CHINA REFUSES TO RETURN CAPTURED SOVIET COPTER CREW REFLECTS INTERNAL SOVIET DEBATE  
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OVER CHINA POLICY BETWEEN MODERATES AND HARDLINERS. MODERATES IN RECENT IZVESTIA ARTICLE ARGUE THAT INEVITABLE DEPARTURE OF MAO FROM SCENE IS COMING "EVER CLOSER" AND MAOIST REGIME COULD NOT SURVIVE "FOR ANY PROTRACTED PERIOD". THEY BELIEVE THAT PEKING MODERATES ARE NOW IN POSITION OF STRENGTH AND WANT NO FURTHER INTERNAL CONFLICT; MOREOVER, MAO WOULD HARDLY RISK MORE CHAOS, SINCE HE CAN NO LONGER RELY ON PLA. ARTICLE MAINTAINED THAT PRC REGIME IS WEAK, DIVIDED AND OPPOSED BY "MILLIONS" OF CHINESE, IMPLIED THAT PEKING POSES NO THREAT TO USSR. HARDLINERS' VIEW THAT CHINESE THREAT IS REAL IS EXPRESSED IN STUDY PUBLISHED UNDER AUSPICES OF INSTITUTE FOR THE FAR EAST - KREMLIN'S THINK-TANK FOR THE SINO-

SOVIET CONFLICT. THEY CONCEDE THAT SURVIVAL OF MAO REGIME MIGHT INDEED BE IN QUESTION, AND THAT ITS PLANS "TO DESTROY THE MONUMENTAL EDIFICE OF WORLD SOCIALISM" ARE ABSURD. HOWEVER, THEY ARGUE, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT SUCH PLANS "CAN BE BRUSHED ASIDE" - AS IZVESTIA WAS APPARENTLY DOING. THEY FURTHER CONTEND THAT PRC'S ANTI-SOVIET PLANS WERE REINFORCED BY "REAL AUTHORITY" WHICH MAOISTS EXERCISE IN CHINA. BUT WHAT BOTHERED IT MOST WAS MENACE OF SINO-US ALLIANCE AGAINST RUSSIA, AS HERALDED BY "IMPERIALISM'S INTEREST IN MAKING USE OF EVERY WAY OF THE ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-SOCIALIST POTENTIAL OF THE MAOIST REGIME". SOME IN MOSCOW, AS IN THE WEST, WHO BELIEVE THAT SOVIET FEARS OF CHINA ARE IRRATIONAL, ARGUE THAT PEKING'S FLIRTATION WITH US WAS MATTER OF SHORT-TERM "TACTICS", AND THEREFORE REVERSIBLE. BUT HARDLINERS BELIEVE PEKING HAS MADE "STRATEGIC" DECISION TO TURN TO US FOR THE LONG TERM, AND THIS CANNOT BE EASILY UNDONE.

INSTITUTE STUDY REGARDS CONFLICT BETWEEN PRO-US AND ANTI-US ELEMENTS AS MAIN ISSUE IN CHINESE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE IN RECENT YEARS, BUT MAINTAINS THAT STRUGGLE ENDED LAST SUMMER WITH DEFINITIVE VICTORY OF PRO-US FACTION. BUT IZVESTIA MAINTAINS THAT PEKING STRUGGLE CONTINUES, AND WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS "HOW TO GO ON FROM HERE".

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ZORZA VIEWS EXTREME HARDLINERS FAVORING NUCLEAR STRIKE AGAINST PRC, BUT SEES NO EVIDENCE THEY ARE IN POSITION OF REAL INFLUENCE. WRITINGS OF HARDLINERS SUGGEST THEY WANT TO TEACH CHINA A QUICK, SHARP LESSON, AS SOVIET ARMY DID IN 1969 FIGHTING OVER DAMANSKY ISLAND. THEY BELIEVE THIS WOULD DETER CHINESE, BUT MODERATES FEAR THIS WOULD DRIVE PEKING INTO US ARMS AND MAKE ANY SINO-SOVIET NORMALIZATION IMPOSSIBLE. IN SOVIET VIEW, WASHINGTON "LEAKS" STRESSING DANGER OF NUCLEAR STRIKE AGAINST CHINA ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE ANY SINO-SOVIET RECONCILIATION LESS LIKELY. ZORZA CONCLUDES THERE ARE REALLY THREE DEBATES IN PROGRESS. IN PEKING, ISSUE IS WHETHER CHINA SHOULD GO WITH US. IN WASHINGTON, QUESTION IS STILL WHETHER THERE IS ANY SUCH DEBATE IN PEKING, AND, IF SO, WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. THIS IS ALSO THE ISSUE IN MOSCOW (WP).

AUSTRALIA

28. ANTHONY HILL (S-N MAY 20) IN CANBERRA DOES TENTATIVE POST-MORTEM ON AUSSIE ELECTION, PENDING FINAL RESULTS. DESCRIBES SITUATION AS "ONE OF THE MOST CURIOUS" FOR MANY YEARS. AUSSIES APPEAR TO HAVE VOTED FOR



ALP'S RETURN, ALTHOUGH BY NARROWEST OF MARGINS; ALMOST CERTAIN TO PLUNGE AUSTRALIA INTO PERIOD OF SOME INSTABILITY IN GOVT., WITH LIKELIHOOD OF NEW PARLIAMENT RUNNING ITS FULL THREE-YEAR COURSE REMOTE.

CURIOUS THING ABOUT THIS ELECTION IS THAT PRESUMED SWING AGAINST GOVT. BASED ON INFLATION, SHORTAGES AND STRIKES, DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE OCCURRED. OPPOSITION CAMPAIGNED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THIS ONE ISSUE, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO HAVE SHOWN UP IN RETURNS FROM SUBURBAN AREAS OF MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY, THE "SUPERMARKET BELT". FACT IS, ALP NOT ONLY HELD MOST GAINS IN THESE AREAS FROM 1972 ELECTION, BUT IMPROVED ON THEM, WINNING TWO SEATS FROM LCP. CAN BE SUPPOSED THAT WHITLAM'S FORCEFUL PERSONALITY, ALP INITIATIVES IN SUCH DOMESTIC FIELDS AS SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH, URBAN IMPROVEMENT AND PARTICULARLY EDUCATION WERE ENOUGH TO COUNTER FEARS ON PRICES

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AND WAGES.

ALP LOST IN RURAL AREAS AND IN SMALLER STATES OF QUEENSLAND AND S AUSTRALIA, WHERE THINGS THAT MATTERED WERE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RURAL SUBSIDIES, PLUS EMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS BY LCP BASED ON FEARS OF SOCIALISM AND CENTRALIST TENDENCIES OF WHITLAM GOVT. LOSS IN RURAL AREAS, HOWEVER, IS TO SOME EXTENT REFLECTION OF BIAS UNDER ELECTION LAWS WHICH PERMIT VARIATIONS OF UP TO 40 PERCENT AMONG THE SIZE OF ELECTORATES. WHILE ALP'S OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL VOTE IS UP SLIGHTLY FROM 1972 ELECTION, DECLINE IN SUPPORT IN SMALLER RURAL SEATS WAS ENOUGH TO OFFSET GAINS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS.

29. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN CANBERRA DESCRIBES ELECTIONS - "REAL CLIFFHANGER". INDICATIONS ARE THAT AUSSIES HAD RETURNED WHITLAM GOVT., BUT ONLY WITH BAREST MAJORITIES. NO ONE COMPLETELY RULING OUT LCP UPSET, HOWEVER. LATEST FIGURES INDICATE THAT ALP GAINED NEARLY 50 PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTE, WITH OPPOSITION GETTING PERHAPS 45 PERCENT. WHITLAM DECLARED THAT PEOPLE'S VOICE HAD BEEN PARTLY MUFFLED BY PECULIARITIES OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM, REFERRING TO FACT THAT ELECTORAL DISTRICTS DO NOT FULLY REFLECT POPULATION SHIFTS FROM RURAL TO URBAN AREAS. ALP TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN WEAK IN RURAL AREAS, AND IT IS IN THESE AREAS WHICH ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN HOUSE. THUS, WHILE ALP APPARENTLY GOT MORE VOTES THAN IN 1972, DISTRIBUTION WAS SUCH THAT IT FAILED TO IMPROVE MAJORITY IN HOUSE. SENATE ELECTION EVEN LESS CLEAR, WITH SOME COMMENTATORS PREDICTING DEADLOCK. DESPITE TENTATIVENESS OF RESULTS,

IT CLEAR THAT ONE BIG LOSER WAS DLP.

JAPAN

30. CSM'S POND IN TOKYO CITES JAPANESE DEFENSE AND NUCLEAR EXPERTS THAT INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WILL PROBABLY NOT PUSH JAPAN TO BECOME NUCLEAR POWER, BUT WILL REINFORCE JAPAN'S RELUCTANCE TO RATIFY NPT. NOTES THAT INDIA'S EXPLOSION HAS BEEN UNIVERSALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPLORED IN JAPAN, WHICH SIGNED NPT IN 1970 BUT HAS YET TO RATIFY. RESISTANCE TO RATIFICATION - WHICH BASED ON DESIRE TO KEEP JAPAN'S OPTIONS OPEN - HAS CARRIED IN LDP BY DEFAULT FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS, IN ABSENCE OF ANY STRONG POLITICAL LEADERSHIP FOR RATIFICATION. POND REMARKS THAT GOING NUCLEAR DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR SMALL ISLANDS AND WOULD DRAIN RESOURCES FROM COUNTRY'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY. ADDITIONALLY, JAPANESE HAVE BEEN MARKEDLY GUN-SHY ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS. STRATEGICALLY, MILITARY PLANNERS ARGUE THAT NO NUCLEAR FORCES IS CREDIBLE UNLESS IT HAS SECOND-STRIKE CAPABILITY; AND JAPAN HAS NO POSSIBILITY OF ABSORBING FIRST STRIKE AND THEN RETALIATE. MAKES MORE SENSE FOR JAPAN TO CONTINUE RELYING ON US "NUCLEAR UMBRELLA". MOREOVER, GOING NUCLEAR WOULD REVIVE ASIAN FEARS OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM, WHICH WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING. IT WOULD ESPECIALLY ANGER CHINA, DESTROY SINO-JAPANESE DETENTE, AND POSSIBLY INVITE PREEMPTIVE STRIKE BY PEKING OR MOSCOW.

VIETNAM

31. IN THIRD OF SERIES ON HIS STAY IN QUANG NAM VC-CONTROLLED ZONE, MCCOMBS (WP) WAS GIVEN TWELVE MILE RIDE IN SOVIET-MADE LIGHT TRUCK, APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE "CONFIDENT IMPUNITY" WITH WHICH COMMUNISTS CAN MOVE ACROSS OPEN MOUNTAIN MEADOWS IN DAYLIGHT. AT NIGHT HE HEARD HEAVIER TRUCKS ALONG ROAD THROUGH SONAN VILLAGE. CADRES ASSIGNED TO HIM WORKED IN RELAYS, "SCIENTIFICALLY", MOST TELLING OF FAMILY TRAGEDIES CAUSED BY AMERICANS. MCCOMBS EVADED EFFORTS TO GET HIM TO COMMENT SYMPATHETICALLY INTO WAITING TAPE RECORDERS. EFFORTS TO GET TAPED STATEMENT PERSISTED UNTIL BANQUET ON LAST NIGHT, WHEN CHIEF CADRE HOST TRIED TO GET HIM DRUNK AND TALKING.

OTHER NOTES: SAIGON AGENTS APPARENTLY OPERATING IN THE ZONE AND LATER IN QUANG NAM ARVN OFFICER GAVE HIM DETAILS OF HIS ACTIVITIES WITH VC. SCHOOLS, CLINIC, SHOPS, GENERALLY SIMPLE OR PRIMITIVE; HOUSES

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ALL DESTROYED, PEOPLE LIVED IN HUTS; ECONOMIC LEVEL POOR, ALTHOUGH JAPANESE WATCHES AND RADIOS IN EVIDENCE. WITH PAGODAS DESTROYED, PEOPLE SAID THEY WORSHIPPED AT HOME; MCCOMBS NOTED "PROFOUND ATTACHMENT" TO VN HISTORY AND CULTURE.

INDOCHINA

32. CITING DECLASSIFICATION THIS WEEKEND OF DOD'S "SUPER-SECRET RAIN-MAKING ACTIVITIES" OVER SEA "SEVEN YEARS AFTER THEY BEGAN, TWO YEARS AFTER THEY STOPPED", S-N'S MCGRORY (5/20) IS REMINDED THAT "IN THE ART OF THE COVER-UP", DOD "IS PEERLESS"; WH EFFORTS "NOW COMING TO LIGHT SEEM AMATEURISH BY COMPARISON AND MUST BE VIEWED BY THE EXPERTS ACROSS THE RIVER AS ALMOST ACTIONABLY PITIFUL". UNDER LAIRD'S JURISDICTION, 29,357 SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY PLANES CARRYING SILVER OR LEAD IODIDE TO INJECT INTO CLOUDS OVER INDOCHINA. DOD DID NOT INFORM OUR ALLIES ABOUT THEIR EXTRA RAIN SUPPLY; IT WOULD NOT EVEN TELL NATIONAL SECURITY INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FORMED BY PRES. "TO LOOK INTO THIS KIND OF MEDDLING WITH NATURE".

MCGRORY CONCEDES THAT IF EIO THAT IF EITHER LBJ OR NIXON ADMINISTRATIONS "HAD LET IT ALL HANGGGG OUT, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A CLAMOR FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS...BUT THE PUBLIC ON THE WHOLE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT DROPPING RAIN WAS PREFERABLE TO DROPPING THE BOMBS AND NAPALM WHICH PLAYED SO LARGE A ROLE IN OUR OTHER 'INTERDICTION' EFFORTS". SAYS THERE REMAINS QUESTION "THAT WAS HARDLY EVER ASKED" DURING VN WAR: DID IT WORK? ALAS, THERE WAS NOBODY ON THE GROUND WITH A SLIDE RULE. WE WILL NEVER KNOW. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 27 JUL 1999  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY BUDGET, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, WEATHER MODIFICATION, MILITARY PLANS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TRUCE OBSERVERS, COMBAT CASUALTIES  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 OCT 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 OCT 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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BIEN HOA  
CAN THO

DANANG  
HONG KONG  
NHA TRANG  
JEC PARIS  
XMT SUVA  
RANGOON  
**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005